

John Murray

WASHINGTON MASSAGE NEWS

JUNE ISSUE 1959

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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The practice of making a report to the membership at the close of each fiscal year is an important function. It is the only opportunity the members have to take inventory of their progress and the performance of their duly elected officers, directors and committees during the year. The ideal method of making a report is, of course, to a statewide meeting attended by all the members. In such a meeting each committee, officer and director could make a detailed report that could be criticized or praised by the members. This has been impossible in our State Chapter due to poor attendance. This report is a poor substitute, but it will at least reach all the members.

It is the sincere hope of all of us who play an active role in the chapter that all of you will attend our State convention or meeting in Moses Lake on June 13th and 14th. You will find details in this paper, sent in by Sec'y-Treas. Ruth Williams.

In my last year's report I gave details of each painful step taken on the rugged and rocky road of progress. The year that has passed since that report has been even more painful, rugged and rocky. I shall discuss a few of our difficulties.

1. The dues were increased by the National convention of 1958 to \$24.00 per year, or \$2.00 per month. A few members stopped paying dues on that account.

2. Members have had visits from Dept. of Licenses inspectors who have ordered Massage Therapists to stop giving colonic irrigations and using certain electrical equipment.

3. The Massage Therapy profession and Wash. chapter suffered a great loss on Feb. 6th, 1959, when our beloved Dr. Jennie S. Cotner, M.D., D.C., N.D., passed away.

4. A conflict arose among the members, which by all the rules of common sense and decency should never have happened.

5. We failed again to have a Massage Therapy bill enacted into law. Please do not stop reading here!!

These difficulties, with the exception of one of them, have had the earnest consideration of the proper committees and the Executive Board. Let's discuss them, remembering that we are true Massage Therapists and nothing more, and nothing less. We are banded together for protection and advancement of true Massage Therapy and to learn from each other.

1. Two dollars per month in dues would almost seem like free membership to other professional people and labor union members, and please do not tell me that union men earn a higher income than a busy Massage Therapist. Furthermore, \$3.00 of each member's yearly dues are set aside by the National in a Legal Aid and Legislative fund. This is similar to a Strike Fund in a labor Union. An organization cannot

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2. The strict ruling by the Dept. of Licenses is based on the 1921 Drugless Therapy law which licenses Naturopaths to give colonics and use all types of electrical equipment. The law states specifically that any professional person who gives colonics or uses electrical equipment, named by the License Dept. as Diathermy, Sine-wave, Ferradic or Ultrasonic, is practicing Naturopathy. He or she must have a Naturopath license unless his or her own license or registration certificate permits it. (The term Hydro-Therapy in the law, is interpreted by the Naturopaths and the Dept. of Licenses to include colonic irrigations. Electro-Therapy covers the use of electrical equipment.) This would include Chiropractors (licensed) and registered Physical Therapists. There is nothing the Wash. Chapter can do about this situation at the present time, and those who use this equipment do so at their own risk. Common sense and past experience tells us that we must first have a Massage Therapy law. Thereafter, the law can perhaps be amended, if we are strong enough, to include other therapies such as colon therapy and electrotherapy. They have been included in one or more of our bills in the past, however, without the slightest success. We still have no massage or Massage Therapy law. Copies of the Drugless Therapy law can be obtained from the Dept. of Licenses in the State Capitol in Olympia.

3. Dr. Jennie Cotner can never be replaced. Her gentle and noble nature, her brilliant mind, her thorough knowledge of Massage Therapy and her education in anatomy as Medical Doctor made her indispensable. May God forgive those who caused her trouble and may God reward her love of Him and her neighbor.

4. If members would submit their grievances and conflicts to a State Chapter officer and ask that the Executive Board arbitrate and make a decision, they could avoid the scars that never heal. I can assure you the Board will act anyway, but very often the damage is already done.

5. Just prior to the 1959 session of the Legislature, the Legislation Committee of Wash. Chapter decided that the conditions were very favorable, and the need very great, for the enactment of a Massage Therapy law. A bill was introduced, passed the Senate and was sent to the House. Then our experienced Legislation committee visited the Dept. of Licenses where they learned that certain portions of the bill would have to be re-drafted, which would cost the chapter a sizeable sum. They also called on the spokesman for the Wash. State medical association and were told that the Ass'n could not support our bill. Faced with utter defeat, the committee members demonstrated their resourcefulness by withdrawing the unsatisfactory bill. If enacted into law, the law would probably have been amended by the Doctors and the Dept. at the next session. This has happened in other states, to the sorrow of the Massage Therapists in those states. This same bill was approved in 1955 by the Dept., under another Director, and our committee felt safe in introducing it. However, it was prematurely introduced by a Senator before the committee could consult the present director. The committee then obtained a written and signed statement from the Director of Licenses, which guarantees us freedom from interference as well as security in the practice of true massage therapy and the use of steam cabinets, heat lamps and vibrators. This ruling will be in effect as long as the present director remains in charge of the Dept. The Dept. will check on us occasionally, however. Our committee deserves our gratitude for having fulfilled one of the functions of our organization in protecting Massage Therapy in our State.

More Progress to Come

About a week ago, I received a letter from Arthur Dunbar, in which he outlined a plan that I believe will greatly assist us in building a better organization. It will perhaps attract eligible non-members as well. I think he will explain his plan when he is ready to inform the members. I answered his letter in the manner and style I like best and which I use when I write to fellow officers. I shall repeat some of it here:

Dear Friend Arthur:

I believe you have wrestled with the problem that has often puzzled me, namely, trying to understand why our organization should be suffering from a chronic illness that defies all attempts to cure it. It is strange indeed that people charged with as noble a work as the alleviation of pain and distress cannot find a common ground for harmony and cooperation. Many members like yourself, Arthur Mann, John Murray, Ruth and Jess Williams and many others have toiled lone and diligently to promote and protect our profession and our organization and should have found a ready and willing response in the minds and hearts of all Message Therapists throughout the State. I confess I do not understand what makes the problem so baffling.

I believe as you do. I believe we need outside help in formulating new ideas and new programs and new methods. I do not believe the fault lies with those who have served so well. They have assumed responsibility and supplied leadership, come hell or high water. In cold reality, the Legislation Committee has decided if and when legislative action was necessary. That is their function and they must not be influenced by the whims and fancies of utterly uninformed, misinformed, or untrained members. The Budget Committee, familiar with organizational finances, must and does determine when, how, and how much money is spent. The Executive Board must and does serve as the coordinating body, exercising its special functions and powers. Other committees do likewise. This leaves no room for self-seeking and ambitious individuals to use their offices or positions as a springboard to fame and glory. No member can make and execute some fantastic and unrealistic scheme or proposal that would tear the organization to shreds.

These policies and this program, I am very afraid to say, have been carried out for several years. We have graduated the malignant influences of irresponsibility and psychosis from our organization. We have coordinated our various committees and defined the duties of each. We have protected the true massage Therapists and let the pseudo-physicians fall in their tottering tracks. We have welcomed people from other professions who give up their former work and educate and train themselves in Message Therapy. We have refused to protect the Massage Therapists who practice Naturopathy or Chiropractic under the label of Message Therapy. We are gaining respect from the Dept. of Licenses and from Medical men. We have not permitted graduates of any emolitic and roabal school of massage to set themselves up as a "super-race", endowed with social distinctions or special privileges. We have truly advanced the cause and the practice of our profession.

What then, is our weakness? I believe it lies in poor publicity among the State's members and non-members. We have been unable to sell our organization to them. This, in my opinion, is the error in which we could easily fall again. Like people whom we carry, and

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those who should be members, our organization minder. I do not believe they realize that thru our organization we are standing on the threshold of the future, a future that dazzles us with its brilliance. Do we have the faith and wisdom to cross the threshold?

Respectfully,
P. T. H. C. R.
Pres., Wash. Chapter

YOUR STATE CHAPTER NOTES

A few days ago I sent my Presidents report to Arthur Dunbar, for publication. Today I received a request from him for an inspirational message regarding our Wash. Chapter meeting or convention in Moses Lake on June 13th and 14th.

My good friend Arthur, it is impossible for me to inspire other people because I am not a great man. I must draw my own inspiration from people I know, or people I have known in the past. I need look no farther than the ranks of Massage Therapists for that inspiration. Please let me tell you about the greatest and humblest Massage Therapist I have known.

He was a little old Swede. He had worked in mines, logging camps and cowpills for many years when he decided to return to Sweden to learn Swedish Massage. He attended and graduated from the Swedish Massage Institute in Gothenberg, Sweden. When I met him he was practicing in Sandpoint, Idaho. He was then 72 years old. He wore a short beard, including a goatee. He was not handsome. He did not resemble a professional man in the slightest. He chewed Copenhagen snuff (snus, in Swedish). He was then a widower and had nobody to keep his house and his treatment room clean and orderly. He wore long woolen underwear, a pair of heavy woolen "lumberjack" pants and no shirt. People who did not know him, and snobbish people with false pride, ridiculed him in their ignorance.

Charley passed away several years ago but his deeds and his fame still live in the hearts and minds of those who knew him well. I still treat an occasional former client of his who tells of the miracles he performed with his skill. I personally received relief from crippling pain from his magic hands, after others had failed. I saw his eyes shine with happiness whenever a patient responded to his treatments. I saw girls and women, young and old, kiss him in gratitude (whiskers, smooches and all). His name meant relief from distress throughout the Inland Empire.

Yes Charley, I saw men take your hands in their own, and marvel at their strength, gentleness and skill. I saw your patients helped into your office and walk out again alone. I saw you locate the trouble, and relieve it, in countless spines and necks. I saw you restore circulation to cold, blue, Juergens Disease feet. I saw you locate stomach ulcers and tumors thru your keen sense of touch and send the sufferers to their M. D. for x-rays. I saw adhesions melt away from your massage. I saw you set a broken collarbone (clavicle) and two broken ribs, and do the greatest job of splinting and taping. I saw you soften the hardest livers and normalize enlarged and congested ones. I saw you correct stomach trouble and constipation. I saw you successfully treat a prolapsed

much and many a prolapsed uterus with your skillful massage. I saw you and your two helpers treat 20 to 30 patients in a day, with more people waiting for an appointment. I saw the addresses in your appointment book, from Idaho, Washington, Montana and other states.

Your greatest triumph came when I saw your former lumberman employer, a man who was then worth \$10,000,000 (ten million) come down from Canada to have his old log-scaler employee treat him. I saw your humble pride. And Charley, I saw you hide away and read your Bible. You must have read "Let him who would be great among you, be of greatest service". You must also have read that Jesus, the Great Healer, bathed and anointed the tired, blistered feet of His disciples. I salute your memory as the old maestro among Massage Therapists.

I shall not attempt to eulogize another noble personality who found her greatness and fame in teaching others. John A. Murray has already done that, much better than I could have done. Her friends everywhere appreciate the tribute you, John, gave Aunt Jennie S. Cotner, honorary member.

Can you and I, the ordinary garden variety of Massage Therapists, lay aside our work for the duration of our June 13th and 14th convention? Can we assemble in Moses Lake in harmony and mutual devotion to our great work? Can we teach each other and learn from each other?

There will be a new name proposed for our organization and for
Marseurs and Masscuses. There will be business to transact. There will
be feasting and fun. There will be demonstrations and spontaneous
talks from those who wish to participate. There will be elections of
officers and directors. There will probably be a picnic lunch and some
entertainment. We will assemble in the banquet room in Elmer's Cafe,
Third Avenue, on the morning of Saturday, June 13th. The Executive
Board will meet at about 8:30.

We cannot have Aunt Jennie and Old Charley with us but we can let their memory insure us to say: "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? (Micah 6:8)

Respectfully submitted
Pete I. Witteim, R. M.
Pres., Wash. Chapter

JUST A REMINDER:

**REGISTRATION
FEE:** \$2.00. All members will pay
for their own meals which will
be served to us in a group.

PLACES TO STAY: Maples Motel	TraveLodge
Single - \$4.50	Single - \$6.00 to \$8.00
Double - \$5.50	Double - \$7.00 to \$9.00
Twin - \$7.00 & \$8.00	Twin - \$8.00 to \$10.00

Sage 'N Sand Motel
No rates available, but comparable to the above motels.
Any number of motels close by.